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29 November 1973

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Human Interaction & Assessment Laboratory  
12-17 November 1973

25X1A 1. After some days of reflection on what I experienced during the Human Interaction & Assessment Laboratory in [REDACTED] I find myself somewhat unable to offer much in the way of critique or constructive criticism to those responsible for the conduct of the week's activities. I can only profess my admiration for the highly professional way in which the two representatives of OTS/BAB conducted this course.

2. If there is anything to be said in regard to the course or the method, it should be to those responsible for the people who attend, principally the management of the DDO. If I have any fear or feel the need to file any reservations, it would be that DDO management will over-react and tend to misuse a very fine technique, one that certainly served me well in reminding me who I am and how I relate to others. My suggestions are not for improvement, but rather to protect the integrity of what has already been established. In this regard I feel there is but one real choice; defer judgment to those in OTS/BAB already responsible for the conduct of this activity. More specifically, people should not be sent to this course, but rather they should want to attend. Under no circumstances should OTS/BAB be forced to feel to meet certain dates for holding the course, nor should there be any pressure to fill up a group with bodies for the sake of beginning a group on schedule. I personally find the idea that entire offices attend, separately or together, a bit silly, but as I suggest this sort of decision should rest with OTS/BAB.

3. My recommendation is simple: If not already done, DDO management should be briefed on the nature and extent of the technique, perhaps at one or several of the various staff meetings. The message is probably not complicated and has more to do with what the technique is not, rather than what it is.

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BAB HUMAN INTERACTION AND ASSESSMENT LABORATORY

11 - 16 February 1974

The Behavioral Activities Branch of the Office of Technical Service will offer its Human Interaction and Assessment Laboratory again from 11 - 16 February. The course is designed to acquaint operations officers with new psychological and educational techniques. In recent years, industry and other government agencies have discovered that experience-based learning is effective in improving leadership and managerial skills. We feel that the same technique can be employed to increase operational skills, particularly in the case officer-agent relationship.

Primary goals of the laboratory include working on establishing relationships, learning more effective ways of communicating, discovering new self-awareness, and increasing the understanding of forces which influence individual behavior.

25X1A The course will be given at [REDACTED] beginning 25X1A on Monday and ending Saturday at noon. Interested officers should contact [REDACTED] on x 3603 by 15 January 1974.

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